

## **Re-tracing identity: the materialisation of multiple identities in funerary contexts of Bronze Age Crete**

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Identity is a complex matter, and while often referred to in singular terms, it is now generally agreed upon that we should investigate ‘multiple identities’. Identity could be described as the complex entanglement of all relations tying us to our human, material and natural environment. This constellation of relations is ever-changing, and thus hard to grasp. For archaeologists this is even more challenging, because we are restricted to those relations that have been materialised in the archaeological record. Funerary contexts offer a good starting point for our search for multiple identities in the past. Because of the presence of both human and nonhuman material we are not confined to the study of possible materialisations of identities in material culture and practices. We also have access to potential materialisations/manifestations of identities in the body. This advantage of funerary contexts is, however, lost if the human and nonhuman material are studied in isolation, as is often still the case for Bronze Age Crete. Identity studies in these contexts are furthermore often limited to only one or two aspects of identity such as for instance gender and status. Starting from the conception of identity as a nexus of relations, this presentation will explore how we can investigate multiple identities of the Cretan Bronze Age simultaneously. By tracing the wealth of relations that can be deduced from both the human and nonhuman material, a funerary network can be created, reflective of multiple relations or identities materialised in the funerary practices of Bronze Age Crete.